

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 34 and 46–50 and the allowability of claims 5, 15–17, 22, 31, 32 and 40–45. As described in detail below, the rejected independent claims have been amended to incorporate limitations from the claims indicated as being allowable. The objected claims has been canceled. Thus, all of the claims have been placed in a condition for allowance.

Claims 1–2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14 and 35–37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,948,040 to Kobayashi et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 5, including any intervening claims. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. Thus, claim 1 is now allowable for the same reasons as claim 5. Further, claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 11 and 14 each depend from claim 1, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 35 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 44. Claim 44 has been canceled. Thus, claim 35 is now allowable for the same reasons as claim 44. Further, claims 36 and 37 each depend from claim 35, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 3 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kobayashi et al.

As mentioned above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 5. Since claim 3 depends from claim 1, it is therefore allowable for the same reasons.

As also mentioned above, claim 35 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 44. Since claim 38 depends from claim 35, it is therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kobayashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,833,134 to Ho et al. As mentioned above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim. Since claims 7 and 8 each depend from claim 1, they are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kobayashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. RE38,406 to Faris et al. As mentioned above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim. Since claims 10, 12 and 13 each depend from claim 1, they are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 18–21, 23, 26, 30 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kobayashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,744,172 to Duhua. Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 32. Claim 32 has been canceled. Thus, claim 18 is now allowable for the same reasons as claim 32. Further, claims 19–21, 23, 26, 30 and 33 each depend from claim 18, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kobayashi et al. in view of Duhua, and in further view of Ho et al. As mentioned above, claim 18 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 32. Since claim 24 and 25 each depend from claim 18, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 27–29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kobayashi et al. in view of Duhua, and in further view of Faris et al. As mentioned above, claim 18 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 32. Since claim 27–29 each depend from claim 18, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kobayashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,201,192 to Hara. As mentioned above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the

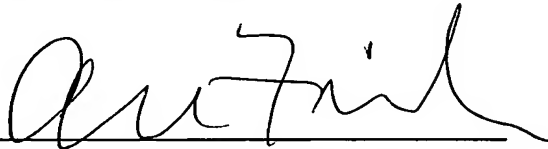
Appln. No. 10/725,674
Amdt. Dated August 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2005

limitations of allowable claim 5. Since claim 9 depends from claim 1, it is therefore allowable for the same reasons.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35355.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 3, 2005